

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 5, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1-10 were pending, and rejected claims 1-10. Claim 1 has been canceled, claims 2-4 and 7-10 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 2-10 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. section 101 as non-statutory. Claim 10 has been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments and it is submitted it satisfies the requirements of the statute. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. section 112 paragraph 2 as indefinite. The claims have been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments and it is submitted they satisfy the requirements of the statute. If additional concerns with the claims arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone to resolve the same. Suggestions by the Examiner are also welcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so rewritten and it is submitted that these claims have not been narrowed and have the same scope as prior to being made independent and are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9 and 10 over various combinations of Kashioka, Matsuda, Stevenson, and Oyamada. Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2-6 have been amended to depend from one of allowable claims 7 and 8. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to include the feature of allowable claim 7. It is submitted that claims 2-6, 9 and 10 are now allowable.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112. It is also submitted that claims 7 and 8 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

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If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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